

REMARKS

Claims 9 – 12 are in the application. Claims 1 – 8 and 13 – 16 are canceled and claims 9 – 12 are currently amended. Claim 9 is the independent claim herein.

No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the amendments submitted herewith.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 – 16 were previously objected to for further broadening the independent claims in the Non-Final Office Action dated August 1, 2006. In particular, the claims were rejected for claiming a device wherein the preamble included consisting of since the term consisting of essentially limits the claims to the elements of the independent claims.

In reply thereto, claims 1 – 8 and 13 – 16 were canceled. Therefore, any objections thereto were overcome. Regarding the objection of claims 9 – 12, each of the claims were rewritten in independent form such that there were no dependent claims to further broaden the scope of the independent claims.

Furthermore, Applicant believed claims 9 – 12 were in a condition for allowance given the Office's previous statement that claims 9 – 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth in the Non-Final Office Action dated August 1, 2006.

In reply to the current objection of claims 9, Applicant includes herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the nonstatutory double-patenting rejection of record.

Independent claim 9 is currently amended to include the transition phrase "comprising of" in the preamble instead of the previous -- consisting of --. Therefore,

each of claims 10 – 12 depending from claim 9 do not further improperly broaden independent claim 9. Additionally, support for the recitation of “comprising of” is supported by the Specification wherein Applicant’s disclosure does not preclude the use of the term “comprising of”. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 – 12 are allowable, as currently amended, for at least the reasons previously provided by the Office.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 – 12 overcome the objections of record and requests the Office to reconsider and withdraw of the objection of claims 9 – 12 and allow the issuance of same.

C O N C L U S I O N

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/RPC/
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